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QUACKERY IN FRANCE IN THE LAST CENTURY.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—To show that things are not very different now from what they were in the last century, I give the following translation of the concluding pages of one of the lectures of Dionis. X.

Speaking of boasters, I will tell you of some who have figured in my time. Besides those I have already mentioned, there are still some ten or a dozen whose portraits I will draw.

Caretto deserves to be mentioned first, because he called himself a Marquis. He was an Italian, who proclaimed a remedy as having marvellous efficacy, and sold it at ten louis d'or the drop. He wished to prescribe for the Dauphiness, and undertook the treatment of Marshal Lunembourg, then laboring of an inflammation of the chest, of which at last he died. Caretto forbad bleeding in his case, but by administering a preparation of poppies he calmed the agitation of his patient for some hours, and made the bystanders think that a statue of gold should be erected to him. Death, however, supervening, changed their opinion, and he lost the great reputation acquired for him by a number of courtiers who patronized him.

Two Capuchins made their appearance here, and caused it to be reported to the King that they had brought from foreign lands certain secret preparations unknown to others. The King lodged them at the Louvre, and gave them 500 livres a year for manufacturing their remedies. The novelty of the thing attracted all Paris. They dispensed large quantities of their drugs, but no miracles followed their use. After a while they entered the Monastery at Cluny. One, who called himself Abbé Rousseau, courageously preferred death rather than be bled, because he had always advised against bleeding. The other, Abbé Aignau, had the reputation of possessing an excellent remedy against smallpox, which would either hinder the pustules coming or prevent their leaving a mark. His remedy at first was taken by very many, merely for fear of the disease; however, after five months, ten persons of quality who were attacked, used it. One of them, the Duke de Roquelaire, lived through the attack; the other, the Prince d'Epinoy, died, though both had followed the Abbé's directions with the greatest care.

A cattle doctor of Seignelay, in Burgundy, pretended to discover all diseases by inspection of the urine. Phials were sent to him from all

quarters, particularly from Paris, and many fees. He gave such opinions as he judged best; and as fortune-tellers, after looking at the hands, often say true things, amidst all he said were some truths. It was only necessary that he should be sometimes correct, to be considered an oracle. I saw him at Paris, whence he returned not much pleased with the Parisians. After his visit here, but little urine came to him. By degrees the people forgot the way, and, like the Parisians, stopped sending to him, and for some years past nothing has been heard of him.

Father Guitou, a Franciscan, learned from a book on chemistry to manufacture drugs. The Superior of the order permitted him to sell them and keep the profits, provided he furnished what might be wanted for the Convent, free of cost. Having tact and some boldness, he made friends, who assisted him to enter the order of Cluni, and in a little while he became an Abbé. Prince D'Isenghen and many others tried his remedies, but with what success no one knows. He continues to practise medicine about Paris, under the name of Abbé Guiton.

An apothecary of Avignon appeared some years since in Paris, with a newly invented pastile. It was a secret that ought to make his fortune, he said, as there was no disease that would not yield to its influence. He had granted to him the privilege of disposing of it. It was distributed throughout all Paris, and at first sold at 5 sols a pastile. But as they were composed of a little sugar incorporated with a grain of arsenic, one of the most powerful poisons we have, the effects were very serious upon many, the more so on account of carelessness in incorporating the ingredients—the arsenic being so imperfectly distributed, that whilst one pastile had very little in it, another might contain ten grains or more. Those who got the former were but little incommoded; whilst those who got the latter were well nigh poisoned, and very fortunate if affected no farther than to vomit blood. These dangerous effects have undeceived the public, who have ceased both to buy and to take the pastiles.

Frere Ange, a Capuchin of the Convent of the Faubourg St. Jaques, had been an apothecary's boy, whose knowledge only enabled him to compound certain remedies, and particularly a syrup which he called mesenteric, and which he administered to all who applied to him. He claimed for this syrup the merit of purging away only those humors which ought to be gotten rid of. He also had a vegetable salt which he extolled above all other remedies. He was an honest man, who said what he did in good faith, for he fully believed all he said. With these remedies he was considered very skilful in his Faubourg, whence his reputation extended to Paris, and at last to the court, where the Dauphiness, who had been told of their excellence, and who was indisposed, wanted to see him. He did not hesitate to tell the physicians of what his medicines were composed, and they did not oppose the determination of the Dauphiness to use them. She tried them for five days, and finding no relief, she put many questions to the Frere, which disconcerted him, and he was dismissed. He at last returned to his Convent, much mortified that the Dauphiness should have had so little confidence in remedies which had such excellent reputation in that neighborhood.

Abbé de Belzé, a priest of Normandy, was advised to call himself a physician. He was introduced by Marshal de Bellefons to the Dauphiness. He purged her twenty-two times in two months, and did this at those periods when such treatment should be avoided by females. He played the apothecary as well as physician. He consulted no one, and, at the end of four months, left her, worse than when he commenced treating her. His fee at leaving her was five hundred pistoles. Mmlle. Besola and Mmlle. Patrocle, ladies of the bed-chamber and confidants of the Dauphiness, with a view of flattering their mistress, tried the Abbé's remedies, and were much debilitated by them, and continued diarrhœa came on, of which they died soon after the Dauphiness.

Madame la Barriere, a midwife of Paris, was suggested to the Dauphiness, and came to see her. She applied fomentations and other remedies used by midwives, but these having excited rather than soothed, she was dismissed with two hundred pistoles.

Sieur du Cerf was an empiric (at least it was so said in Paris), who possessed a secret remedy, an oil or essence of guaiac., which would make people immortal, for, taken either internally, or rubbed on externally, any disease would forthwith disappear under its influence. One of the Almoners of the Dauphiness proposed him as a man who would certainly cure her. The Dauphin desired to see him, but after conversing with him, he advised the Dauphiness not to employ him. Nevertheless, two months afterwards, on the very day when she died, he was summoned and introduced to her. Feeling her pulse and examining the abdomen, he said he had cured persons much more ill, and by an injection containing some of his essence he would expel all the impurities with which her bowels were filled. He went to M. Riqueur's to prepare his remedy, but when he returned she was in the agonies of death, and died two hours after. He returned to Paris, saying, haughtily, that had she taken his medicine she would not have died. The public did not long profit by his rare secret, which was to make men immortal; for three months after this, showing a person to the door, he fell down his own staircase, and was so dangerously wounded that he died very soon afterwards.

"The Physician of Chaudrais" made much noise, and was much after the style of the preceding. Chaudrais is a little hamlet near Mante, containing some five or six houses. Here was found a peasant of pretty good sense, who prescribed herbs and roots to those around, according to the disease that affected them, and as they experienced benefit from his prescriptions, they gave him the title of physician, and he was only known as "the physician of Chaudrais". His reputation spread through the Province, and got to Paris, whence so many patients came to see him that houses had to be built to hold them. Those whose diseases were trifling were cured by his remedies, which only consisted of pulverized plants and dried roots; but the more obstinate and deeper-seated affections were not benefited. This concourse of patients lasted for three or four years. It gradually diminished, on account of the few benefits received, and almost imperceptibly the physician of Chaudrais sank into insignificance. We do not complain of this man; he did not pretend to

be more than he was; he did not try to inveigle patients, or make attempts to sell his medicines; he promised no more than he was capable of fulfilling. It was the public, prejudiced in his favor, or that unduly elevated him; it is the public, convinced of the error, that has deserted him.

About ten years ago there appeared at Versailles a man who said he had particular secrets and purgatives that removed all diseases of whatever nature they might be. He was countenanced by many persons of quality, who lodged him at Cheni, vaunted his merits, and who spoke of him to the King in very favorable terms. This fortunate commencement brought him many patients, who were not, however, much pleased by the harshness of his remedies. What more particularly marred his reputation, a little while after, was a purgative administered to Madame Durafort, in a rheumatic pain for which she had been bled a day or two before. This lady was advanced in pregnancy, but robust looking as if she would outlive the world. The purgative caused a continual diarrhœa, with distressing pain in the abdomen and bloody stools. She passed a membrane an ell long, which, upon examination by the court surgeons, was pronounced the mucous lining of the rectum and part of the côlon, separated by the violence of the remedy. She died, after having suffered like a martyr, and this put an end to his pretensions as a physician.

The Sieur Chambon, at first Surgeon in the gallies at Marseilles, afterwards practising in Poland, being in Paris, sold his remedies at a low price. Either by chance or otherwise, some persons were much relieved by him, and, believing they owed their lives to his efforts, they proclaimed everywhere the merits of their physician and the excellence of his remedies. His patients multiplied, and came to him from all quarters. In fact, he could not attend to half that came, and for at least a year his name resounded throughout Paris. But in a little while his reputation diminished, he was put into prison, and no one mentioned him.

Sieur Bouret is the last who appeared upon the stage. He came to Versailles about a year and a half ago, with a pill, the effects of which he declared were wonderful in every disease. Some persons of quality who took them, vaunted their excellence. Upon their being mentioned to M. Fagon, he said that if they were as good as they were represented to be, the King ought to purchase the secret for the public good. Bouret was presented to the King, who ordered him to tell the chief physician of the court the nature of the composition, and he should be recompensed. Fearing, however, the superior knowledge of the Court Physician, he kept the secret to himself. He repented of this a short time after, and whilst endeavoring, through the influence of his friends, to obtain another offer, he became ill at Versailles of an inflammation of his bowels. He was of a full habit, and, having a high fever, bleeding was recommended; but refusing this, and every other remedy, he took his own pills, which so increased the inflammation that he died on the fourth day, taking his secret with him to the other world.

These are not all I could tell you of. There are several of whom I do not speak, because it would make public the intrigues and means which they used to obtain permission of the court physicians to advertise,

recommend and sell their remedies. There are quacks at all times, and particularly at the present day, and God knows an increase of their number does not help the public health. But by the faithful recital I have made of these ten or a dozen dealers in specifics, you may judge how dangerous it is for persons to put themselves into the hands of such people—who presumptuously undertake anything that comes in their way. How much better to go to the fountain—the surgeon and physician—who, devoting their lives to the study of man and the diseases he is subject to, are more capable of healing them than men who know nothing about them.

CASES COMMENCED WITH BY THOMSONIANS.

[Communicated for the Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.]

First.—A young lady, who had become so much embittered against the allopathic practice, that she affirmed, again and again, with great earnestness, that she never would take another dose from a practitioner of that stamp, was attacked with a fever. She sent some twenty miles for a Thomsonian, remained under his treatment about three weeks, grew worse, sent for me, took a cathartic of calomel, immediately began to amend, and, by the use of one more such cathartic and a bitter infusion, soon recovered.

Second.—A lad, aged 11 or 12 years, was placed under Thomsonian treatment, which was continued three weeks, when I was called to take charge of him. There was some tumefaction and considerable tenderness of the abdomen, great irritation, and I at first regarded the case as of so formidable a character, that I took charge of it with great reluctance. I gave the lad an anodyne, which composed him very much in a short time. Feeling relieved of his distress, he observed that he had been sorely tormented through the whole of his sickness, and had had "thirty-seven of their plaguy pepper injections," which, said he, "have burnt me all up." I was soon satisfied that it was a case of worms, and administered anthelmintics. These procured the expulsion of fifty of the large round kind, and the boy became at once convalescent.

Third.—Two years ago last summer, I was called into a neighboring town, to a married woman just attacked with a fever. She had an unmarried sister living with her, who had been sick a week with the same disease, and had employed a Thomsonian physician. After prescribing for my patient, I was requested to give my opinion in regard to the sick girl. I at first refused; but being informed that the Thomsonian had done visiting her, calling her convalescent, and that the family thought her worse, I was induced to examine her. I found a rapid pulse (over 130 per minute), a tumid and tender abdomen, diarrhœa, mental aberration, and other alarming symptoms. I apprised the family of her dangerous state, advised them to send for her parents, who lived some thirty miles distant, and who were strongly prejudiced, as I was informed, in favor of the Thomsonian practice, and let them employ such medical

aid as they chose. The parents were sent for. In the mean time I was strongly urged to administer something for her relief. After much importunity, I did prescribe for her, apprising the family that a protracted sickness must be looked for, or a fatal termination of the disease. I had charge of the patient from this time, and had to be most assiduous in my attentions for between three and four weeks, before any decided indications of improvement took place. During most of this time, the patient kept up an incessant gabble, wanting to sing, dance, play, &c.; voided urine and fæces unconsciously, or, if conscious, spoke of what she was doing in the most low and vulgar terms. She was almost constantly shifting from a cold, languid state, to one of intense heat and profuse perspiration, and no active treatment could be pursued. An occasional mild cathartic was exhibited, but most of the time cold astringent injections were required to restrain the diarrhœa. Cold water, when the skin was hot, was applied without stint; and when in the opposite state, stimulating embrocations. I should mention one other very bad symptom, which continued most of the time for two weeks after she came under my care. Although, when in health, a modest and well-informed female, she was now much disposed to obscenity, and was constantly, if not restrained, exposing her nakedness. At length she began to amend, and finally recovered her health; but she continued to be unusually talkative for many weeks. The married sister, although attacked precisely like the one mentioned, required medical attendance but a single week, and I see no reason to doubt that the difference in the two cases arose entirely from the difference of treatmemt in the outset.

Fourth.—A year ago last summer, I was requested to visit a middle-aged man, in the town of Guilford, Vt., who had been sick eight or ten days, and had been attended by two of the brightest Thomsonian doctors that could be obtained. They called his disease inflammation of the brain, and despaired of his recovery. I found him almost pulseless; the skin universally cold and bathed in sweat; the mouth and eyes wide open, and the latter turned upwards, with apparently deep coma. He, however, waked occasionally, and was then quite delirious. Had I not supposed that much of the prostration was owing to the medicine he had taken, I should have considered the case perfectly hopeless; and, as it was, I regarded it as nearly so. Having bargained with the friends to have the exclusive management of the case, and not to be interfered with by any one, I commenced the treatment by the exhibition of calomel, camphor and opium, once in four hours, alternately with the aid of turpentine, in tea-spoonful doses, which, after the first twenty-four hours, were given at longer intervals. An epispastic was applied to the nape of the neck, and mustard poultices to the extremities. A little warmth of the surface seemed to be excited, by the second day, which gradually increased from day to day, until it reached a healthy standard; but it was not until the fourth day, from the commencement of this treatment, that the patient began to close his eyes, or his mouth, when he slept. Wine and quinine were then substituted for the turpentine, and the patient became convalescent in a few days thereafter.

Such are some of the cases which have fallen into my hands after having been commenced with in the preposterous manner of the Thomsonians; and as I never, in forty years' practice, had such cases, or any bearing a near resemblance to them, when I commenced the treatment myself, in the outset, I attributed their bad character wholly to the bad treatment. But how shall this and other modes of quackery be met by the regular practitioner? My method is this. I tell people, that, if they choose to employ quacks, to let them commence and go through with the case; not to begin with regulars and then resort to quacks, nor *vice versa*; and, comparing all their cases, if they find the quacks have the best success, give them the preference; otherwise, give the regulars the preference. For one, I say, if I cannot succeed better, taking diseases as they arise, than the Thomsonians, or those of a similar stamp, the people are welcome to employ them. JOHN BROOKS.

Bernardston, Jan. 18, 1847.

OBSERVATIONS ON STRICTURE OF THE URETHRA.

By Edward H. Dixon, M.D., of New York.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

WE shall confine our remarks on this occasion to the proper construction and choice of bougies, and their application to strictures more or less permanent in character, and a consideration of the legitimate use of caustic applications. In the preceding No. we remarked that "we sought to cure the disease by means of remedies whose power to *produce* a stricture none could doubt." We regret the necessity of modifying that sentence, for whilst writing this, we are endeavoring daily to overcome a severe stricture produced by the unnecessary and inconsiderate use of caustic, applied as a *destructive* agent by a celebrated empiric of this city; and although in this instance the mischief was done by a non-professional hand, it is well known that the use of caustic as a destructive agent is still continued by some practitioners. To use their own frequent language, they use it to cause "a slough," or a series of them, hoping in that way to "get through" the stricture. It could not fail to gratify the writer to observe the language of Velpeau (I quote from a late No. of this Journal, page 488, a sentence from the very valuable article of Dr. Fisher). "If the canal of the urethra be really cauterized, it is a bad operation, because there is loss of substance and a more considerable stricture ensues." It is therefore evident, from the caution given by this distinguished surgeon, that the practice introduced by John Hunter, and so enthusiastically adopted by Mr. Home, is not correctly understood by all who have occasion to treat strictures of the urethra. Mr. Whately, who adopted the system of cauterizing with the potassa fusa, spoke in a manner so indefinite as to leave his actual views a matter of doubt; he speaks of "abrading" the mucous membrane without "producing a slough"; and Samuel Cooper remarks, very justly, "To abrade without destroying is

rather too nice a distinction for a practical man, doing business, as it were, in the dark." We take it for granted, then, with such distinguished names to support us, as well as the common sense of every reflecting man, that caustic is capable of doing much mischief if used as a destructive agent, and shall resume the consideration of its proper use, after examining the construction of bougies as found in our market. Like everything else that becomes an article of common use in our trafficking country, any prescribed or scientific regulation of size or consistence in these articles is quite a secondary consideration to the seller. The practitioner who wishes to use the articles he purchases, with any satisfaction to himself or benefit to his patient, must not send to the apothecary for them, but go himself to the importer and select from a large quantity; nine tenths of which he will always find good for nothing.

We speak of the gum elastic bougies, and particularly of the English and French ones that are brought here for sale. A very superior article of the French may be had in Paris, but they must be brought by private hands, for they rarely reach our market.

Bougies are either solid, the body being made of canvass and varnished with gum elastic; or hollow, admitting a wire to keep them stiff, with a similar exterior. We will now explain our reasons for pronouncing so large a portion of them worthless. Suppose, for instance, a stricture so advanced as only to admit the smallest possible stream of urine, and moreover, which is often the case, situated in the curve of the urethra. Many of the bougies prepared for this description of stricture, are either solid, the body being no larger than a wheat straw, or if hollow, admitting a wire of very small size. To curve one of the former, is impossible; and if you do curve the latter, sufficient force cannot be applied, for the instrument has no power to resist it. You cannot use a straight one, for the obstruction is in the curved, and perhaps near the membranous part, where it is increased by the natural contraction of the urethra as it passes through the triangular ligament, and often by the spasmodic action of the anterior fibres of the levator ani, called the sling muscles of Wilson.

Most of the larger ones are very little better, even if they will admit a stilet or wire, stout enough to convey the requisite force against the stricture, from the total deficiency of the wedge principle in their joints. A bougie of equal thickness in its whole length, can be of little use as an instrument to make pressure against the circumference of a stricture; because if it can be made to enter at all, its further progress can convey no increase of pressure, for its size does not increase; it may answer to sound the extent of a stricture, but it can never aid in curing it. Such is the construction of a great portion of those used in this city.

A bougie, to be efficient in producing absorption of a stricture situated anterior to the curve of the urethra, should be solid and of the size of a pipe stem to within an inch and a half of its end, nor should that end in any case, however severe the stricture may be, be less than one sixteenth of an inch across, and very slightly rounded; indeed, it should have no point, strictly so called, at all. We will give our reasons for this. Whe-

ther the instrument be either solid or hollow, its end, if sharpened to extreme tenuity, or even, as we have said, beyond the sixteenth of an inch, can receive no adequate support from the shaft or body of the instrument, and it will catch either in the plicæ of the urethra, or else the force conveyed by the pressure of the surgeon's hand will be continued in a straight line with the more resisting part or shaft, and tilt the point in some direction other than through the centre of the stricture; then when it is withdrawn, it will be found to have doubled upon itself, and not entered the stricture at all.

What, then, is to be done with those cases in which the urine will only pass guttatim, and in which there is great difficulty in passing the smallest bougie? They are either to be incised (a practice, we are sorry to say, that is freely pursued in this city), or caustic is to be used; and here it must be confessed there is room for some difference of opinion, and a great chance for quackery to attack the regular. practitioner; for, be it known, that like the Thomsonian and his anti-mineral cry, they raise their voices against us for using it, and constantly abuse it themselves in the most fearful manner. We have had several cases of caustic strictures made by these gentry, which from the description of the instruments used, and the severe burning that followed their application, leaves no doubt on my mind, that caustic was the origin of all the trouble. All strictures that exist at the curved part of the urethra, or beyond the scrotum, should be treated with hollow bougies, admitting a stiff wire to within a quarter of an inch of the point; and the surgeon will find them pass with increased facility, if his patient stands before him and he places the left hand under the urethra, making gentle pressure thereon so as to support the instrument and occasionally tilt up its point; whilst the hand holding the bougie can make pressure in the opposite direction, and thus depress the point, all the while making gentle pressure towards the stricture, and as it were humoring the urethra. Indeed, it is always best not to alarm this delicate membrane, for it often is ready primed to oppose your efforts with spasm; act, then, like a wily politician, and conceal your real intention till you have effected your purpose. In some of these spasmodic cases, belladonna may be used with the caustic by an instrument we shall describe presently.

It is hoped the reader will pardon a short extract on the proper use of caustic, from a small volume of our own on this and similar subjects, as it contains our views in a condensed form.

"There is no doubt that in all difficult cases, and particularly in irritable strictures, the careful use of caustic is preferable to the lancet-pointed bougie. We are constantly in the habit of using it, and never meet with any permanent ill effects. But we have been exceedingly careful, never to apply it oftener than once in three days, and then very slightly. In cases where the patient has experienced pain for several days after the passage of a common bougie, and has dreaded its introduction so much that I feared his inability to bear it, I have, unknown to him, used a very small piece of caustic, and such has been the relief afforded, that after two days, I have introduced the bougie entirely without pain, and he has

urged me to resume it on discovering the cause of his ease. The truth is, that those cases that were cured by John Hunter and Sir Everard Home, by this method, were well explained by the latter. The caustic destroys the irritability and produces absorption of the stricture. It is an admirable remedy, and can only be used as an adjunct to the mechanical action of the bougie in producing that result.

"GREEN ON BRONCHITIS," &c

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—In your Journal of Dec. 16th, 1846, there is a paper with the above title, signed "Medicus," which is remarkable for the harsh and unkind spirit by which it is characterized. The fact that you gave place to such a communication, is conclusive evidence that you believed there was reasonable ground for the charge of plagiarism which Medicus preferred against Dr. Green, and therefore it is proper and necessary to ascertain the truth or falsity of the charge, that the public may know whether the *accused* or the *accuser* is the censurable party.

I was in hopes that some one, less humble than myself, would have replied to Medicus, through the pages of your Journal; but as this has not been done, I am prompted by a sense of justice to attempt it myself, as I am unwilling that an excellent and valuable member of the medical profession—residing at a distance from Boston—should be injured through the media of the journals here, without some just or reasonable provocation.

The writer of the communication referred to, is well known as a physician residing in New York, the residence also of Dr. Green; and the fact that said communication appeared simultaneously with a similar one by the same author, in the New York Commercial Advertiser, would seem to favor the idea that the writer—actuated by some motive equally unworthy of his head and heart—was disposed to go to work systematically for the purpose of injuring the reputation of Dr. Green, and bringing him into disrepute with the members of his profession.

It must be apparent to every unprejudiced reader, that these strictures by Medicus were not put forth as specimens of sober and judicious criticism, intended to sustain the dignity of the profession, but for the exclusive purpose of finding fault with Dr. Green's book, not only as regards its contents, but also its external appearance. The writer speaks of it as a "huge octavo," though it contains less than 300 pages; and even complains of the gold letters upon the back, as though it was not the prevalent fashion for books to be thus lettered in gold. He says these letters have a "formidable" aspect, being, no doubt, extremely offensive in his sight; but whether *Dr. Green* or the *binder* is to be censured for this, does not exactly appear. Everything in relation to the book, is seen by Medicus through a false or distorted medium; and when he comes to his sober senses, he will probably find himself in a similar predicament with that of the learned Sir Paul Neal, who announced that he had dis-

covered an elephant in the moon, but which, upon closer scrutiny, proved to be only a mouse in his telescope.

The work of Dr. Green, which Medicus has undertaken to criticize, is intended chiefly to point out the value of topical applications to the interior of the larynx, in diseases of that organ; and it is argued by the author, contrary to the generally received opinions of medical men, that these applications may, as a general thing, be made with ease and facility. Medicus endeavors, in the first place, to ridicule the idea of introducing a sponge into the larynx, as proposed by Dr. Green, and suggests that the sponge, instead of entering this cavity, is merely thrust behind the epiglottis. It is better, however, that he should speak for himself. Here, then, is his language.

"But the reader who has ever heard anything of the author, and his early pretensions to originality of practice in this speciality, is destined to a sad disappointment. He will expect to find the proofs that the novel feat of passing an armed probang, *through the larynx*, into the *trachea* down to the *bifurcation*, has been performed, thus curing *bronchitis* by topical applications of his curative means to the inflamed membrane. It was this monstrous assumption which was scouted by the profession, as 'ludicrously absurd, and physically impossible.' Such professions notoriously made to inquiring invalids, and vaunted as having actually been done upon their own persons, by patients who had been '*educated*' to believe it, when the sponge had been merely thrust for a moment behind the epiglottis; were deemed by anatomists as impugning the professional honor of their author, and all such united in reprobating the whole fiction as worthy only of contempt."

Medicus next endeavors to prove that the practice of Dr. Green, as exemplified in his work, is the identical practice of MM. Trousseau and Belloc, of France, as set forth in their treatise on "Laryngeal Phthisis," &c. In proof of this unqualified assertion, he quotes these authors as saying, "When we wish to cauterize the pharynx, the base of the tongue and the top of the larynx at the same time, we take a whalebone," &c. ***** "When the isthmus of the gullet is passed, there occurs an effort of deglutition which elevates the larynx, and we seize the opportunity to draw forward the sponge, which had been at the entrance of the œsophagus. By this manœuvre we get at the glottis, and then it is easy to express the solution into the larynx; the cough which now occurs favors the introduction of the caustic."

"Here," continues Medicus, after making the preceding quotations, "every reader of Dr. Green's book will perceive how completely he was anticipated *nine years ago*."

We do not perceive the force of this vaunting expression. We presume that Medicus, in his eagerness to convict Dr. Green of plagiarism, would be likely to avail himself of those passages in the French work, which would aid him the most effectually in making out his case. But if he relies upon the quotations which we have just copied from his communication, we can only say that he has failed signally in his object. No evidence is afforded that Trousseau and Belloc thought of introducing a

sponge, charged with a medicinal solution, into the larynx. They only speak of cauterizing the top of the larynx, and remark, that, by a special manœuvre, it is easy to *express* the solution into the larynx. The latter remark indicates, very clearly, that they did not think of introducing the sponge itself into the larynx, and hence the practice of Dr. Green, instead of being identical with that of these gentlemen, as asserted so confidently by Medicus, is wholly and entirely different.

If Trousseau and Belloc succeeded, by the method which they have described, in "expressing the solution into the larynx," it must have been rather accidentally than otherwise; for it would be no new argument to say, that when the larynx is elevated by the effort of deglutition, which follows the introduction of the sponge beyond the "isthmus of the gullet," the epiglottis falls at the same instant upon the orifice of the larynx, and thereby prevents the passage of the fluid into its cavity. The sponge, therefore, being drawn forward at this moment, would merely pass over the lingual surface of the epiglottis, without any opportunity for the solution to gain admission into the laryngeal cavity. How the cough, which may or may not ensue, could favor the introduction of the fluid, is by no means apparent, for the forcible emission of air from the lungs, which accompanies the cough, would, it seems to us, effectually prevent the fluid from passing into the interior of the larynx.

From these premises, it is obvious that Dr. Green's practice is original with himself, unless there are some other claimants for the honor than Trousseau and Belloc, and that he has been charged with plagiarism either through ignorance or malice; for this, I regret extremely to say, is the certain and inevitable conclusion.

The editor of the New York Medical and Surgical Reporter, in defence of Dr. Green, calls attention to an article by M. Trousseau, recently published, as affording additional evidence that this learned French physician and his associate, were not fully aware of the practicability of making medicinal applications to the interior of the larynx. In this article, the writer details one hundred and twelve cases of croup, in which he performed the operation of tracheotomy; and he recommends, if there is reason to believe that the larynx alone is the seat of the lesion, that a sponge, moistened with a solution of the nitrate of silver, be introduced through the artificial opening, and passed over the tracheal membrane. If Trousseau had been in the habit of making topical applications to the cavity of the larynx, in the way proposed by Dr. Green, and at the same time believed that the solution of nitrate of silver, locally applied, would exercise a salutary influence in controlling or modifying the disease, he would assuredly have availed himself of his knowledge and skill in this respect, before resorting to the operation of tracheotomy.

Medicus, as I have said, is disposed to ridicule the idea of "entering the larynx" at all. In this he does not stand alone. During a recent visit to New York, I was surprised to find a number of intelligent medical gentlemen, among my friends, who regarded the proposition as supremely ridiculous. One of these gentlemen, who had been long devoted to an extensive and arduous practice, told me that he had never even seen the

epiglottis in the living subject, and that to introduce a sponge into the cavity of the larynx, as proposed by Dr. Green, was the greatest of all human absurdities. Thus do medical men express themselves upon this topic. One of the most distinguished teachers of anatomy in the United States, remarked to one of his friends within a month, that the proposed operation of "entering the larynx" was "anatomically and physiologically impossible." He did not make this remark from any feeling of opposition to Dr. Green, but from a firm and honest conviction of its truth. The irritation produced by a drop of water or a crumb of bread, which passes the "wrong way," is always adduced as an argument in the consideration of this subject; and it will be found that either side of the question is sustained by the most ample authority.

Through the kindness and courtesy of Dr. Green, I have had ocular demonstration of the feasibility of the operation. I saw him make his favorite topical application in a large number of cases, both ladies and gentlemen. In about one fifth of the cases, I was enabled to see the epiglottis distinctly, and it was always in a vertical position. In one case, which was that of a chaplain in the army, I saw both the epiglottis and the orifice of the laymx, and so devoid were the parts of the sensibility natural to them, that Dr. Green was enabled to introduce the sponge slowly and deliberately into the interior of the larynx. Hence I was satisfied that in this case, if in no other, the "anatomical and physiological impossibility" had been surmounted. But it is not necessary to have this positive demonstration in order to be assured that you have entered the laryngeal cavity. The sponge, which is attached to the end of the bent whalebone, being passed over the epiglottis, and then pressed downward and forward, must of necessity enter the larynx rather than the œsophagus. It will be apparent to the intelligent physician, who is acquainted with the anatomy of the parts, whether he has really entered the interior of the larynx, or whether he has merely thrust the sponge behind the epiglottis, Medicus to the contrary notwithstanding.

Though Dr. Green has many opponents in the medical profession in New York, yet the great majority of them are his advocates. Professors Mott and Revere, of the Medical University, have both spoken in praise of his practice in their lectures, and have honorably awarded to him the merit of having made a new and important discovery.

Medicus charges Dr. Green with having pretended that he had passed "the larynx and trachea down to the bronchial bifurcation." This charge, I presume, is not well founded, for Dr. Green remarked to me, in conversation with an eminent practitioner in New York, that the latter gentleman had accomplished what he had not attempted himself, namely, the introduction of the sponge down to the bronchial bifurcation. The case was one in which the operation was deemed expedient, and the results of the experiment were favorable.

It was my intention to have said something of the merits of this practice, but my time, at present, does not permit. With your permission, I shall allude to this subject at a future time. Yours, &c.

Boston, Jan. 27, 1847. M.

SYPHILIS INFANTUM.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Dear Sir,—The case about to be recited has several peculiarities, which render it one of more than usual interest.

1st, The disease showed itself a few days after birth; it commonly does not manifest itself till the fourth or fifth month.

2d, The copper-colored ulcers were diffused over the whole surface of the body; the *face* and *feet* having the most blotches, and the *anus* and *pudenda* the fewest.

3d, Three previous children had died young of the disorder, that had been treated with mercury, &c.; this, the fourth child, survived under a somewhat modified and different treatment.

Case.—Mrs. S. was delivered of her fourth child. On the next day I found both mother and child doing well. On the fourth day I was desired to see the child, the messenger stating that it was taken like all the rest—"and likely would not stand it long." It will be proper for me here to say that this family was respectable, and both parents apparently healthy. I had no acquaintance with Mrs. S. until her last confinement.

Found the child, which was at first strong and plump, now weak and shrivelled. The infant was hoarse, surface cool, the eyes and nostrils discharging a filthy ichor, and the body covered with ulcers of a copper color. I prescribed—R. Pulv. Doveri, gr. j.; protochlo. hydrarg., gr. iv. M. Div. in chart No. xvj. Give a powder every three hours, until the infant appears to be under the influence of an anodyne, then give a teaspoonful of castor oil; when the oil moves the bowels, resume the powders under the same directions. Also apply the following ointment to the ulcers. R. Protochlo. hyd., grs. x.; adip., ʒ ss. M. Ft. ungt.

The above plan was pursued for six days, at the end of which time the ulcers were nearly healed, the voice was natural, the spasms had subsided, the extremities warm, &c. Then prescribed—R. Syr. rhei aromat., f ʒ j.; to be given every evening. At the end of five days discontinued the syr. rhei, and substituted small doses of calcined magnesia, as the child needed some aperient medicine.

The *opium* and *calomel ointment* were in this case strikingly beneficial. The first as a sedative, diaphoretic and antispasmodic, was very useful—as a stimulant, it seemed to arouse the general prostration of the system in a gentle and salutary manner. The latter kept the skin soft; it was applied to the eyes and nose, and, as no other local remedy was employed, its alterative action was obviously serviceable to a high degree.

"Claudian."

Influence of Lactation on the Health of Infants.—Mr. Dendy related to the Medical Society of London, a case of a lady who lost two children successively at the respective ages of five and six months, without any previous disease or evident cause. A wet nurse was obtained for the third, which lived and thrived. Did the milk of the mother, who was a strong and healthy woman, exert any influence in the production of the fatal result?—*Lancet.*

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, FEBRUARY 3, 1847.

Medical Convention of Virginia.—A spirited meeting was recently held at Richmond, Virginia, in which there was a strong representation of the best medical talent of the Old Dominion. One prominent object seems to have been, to raise the standard of professional education, that the people may be well served, and at the same time to secure to each other that fraternal feeling which should characterize the members of a body of learned, accomplished men, engaged in a noble pursuit. Dr. William A. Patterson, of the city of Richmond, was elected President. The immediate business brought before the Convention was, 1st. The organization of the medical faculty of the State into a Society, and also the establishment of auxiliary associations. 2. The adoption of a code of medical ethics, for the proper government of the profession. 3d. To regulate the rate of charges. 4th. To memorialize the Legislature to place the accounts of physicians against deceased persons' estates, accruing within twelve months, in the first class of debts. 5th. To consider the subject of empiricism, &c., besides several other topics of vital importance to the interests of medical science in Virginia. A cordial feeling was manifested in the labors of the late National Medical Convention, which is popular with almost every one connected with medicine and surgery, excepting a very few in Massachusetts. Efforts were made, on the proposition of Dr. Quarles, for the publication of a journal under the auspices of the Society, at Richmond, the cost of which shall not exceed five dollars a year. Dr. Haxall, from a committee on medical ethics, submitted a printed treatise, formerly adopted by the Medical Society of Virginia, arranged in five sections, viz.: Consultations; duties of physicians towards each other; conduct for the support of medical character; duties of the faculty in relation to quackery; differences of physicians and the duties of physicians relative to pecuniary compensation for their services. Dr. Peebles, of Petersburg, introduced a series of resolutions in regard to empiricism, that spoke very plainly his view of the growing evils that beset the path of the practitioner. Finally, the deliberations of the Convention were closed by an address from Dr. Wm. A. Patterson, in which he gave a succinct sketch of the history of medicine from the time of Hippocrates to the 79th Olympiad—about 460 years before the advent of the Saviour. From that period he traced the progress of medicine through Egypt; then adverted to Celsus, in the age of Augustus, at Rome; and gave a graphic notice of the writings of Galen, and subsequent progress of the Arabian school; all of which exhibited Dr. Patterson's thorough familiarity with the antiquities of a profession which he adorns.

Without systematically detailing all the points on which the speakers dwelt, or minutely recording the various suggestions that were made in the Convention with a view to placing the profession in Virginia in a position to maintain their rights as men and their dignity as members of a learned profession, we have exhibited enough to show that the meeting was one of

peculiar interest to every member, and the results will doubtless exert a salutary influence on the professional character of the whole Commonwealth for centuries to come.

Life.—Such is the title of an introductory to the course on the Theory and Practice of Medicine, in the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, by W. Darrach, M.D. After some preliminary remarks, Dr. D. states three propositions, thus: "Life is that principle in us, by which we are enabled to resist the destructive inorganic powers. 2d, Life is organism; and 3d, Life presents itself in three forms, viz., vegetable, animal and man." He employs some subtle arguments to show what is meant by organism. And what is organization? asks the author—a question which he answers himself, by saying, "it is the union of matter and breath of life—a connate union," which to our feeble apprehension is a very obscure, if not incomprehensible definition. After declaring that organization is not this thing, nor that, he endeavors to clear up a world of mist, so that philosophers may have a clear field of metaphysical vision. "But, on the contrary," says he, "as neutral salt is the result of a commingling of an acid and an alkali, so organization is the *tertium-quid* which results from the connection of matter and the breath of life." We grant full praise for the exhibition of learning displayed by Dr. D. in his philological researches in Hebrew, and in the construction of the diagrams—yet there is not a full measure of satisfaction in his deductions to all orders of minds. When on the 18th page, however, he actually defines what man is, we freely acknowledge ourselves indebted to him for the lucid explanation. "What is man, is pressed upon us," continues the professor. "Surely he is more than animal. He has a triple and transcendental nature; sense, intellect and soul—functions, faculties and spirit, a nutritive, reproductive and sentient organism." On proceeding further, objections arise to some of the singularly constructed arguments. There is certainly more of a display of Hebrew roots—na-phesh, chah-yim, nesh-math chah, &c.—than genuine physiological investigation into the laws of vital action. We perfectly agree with Dr. Darrach in all his views in regard to the origin of man, and his high destiny. Revelation establishes a point which over-tops all philosophy and all the speculations of those who would reason at variance with the declarations of the Creator himself. Dr. Darrach's organ of veneration is an active one—and we honor the disposition he manifests to impress others with his own sentiments concerning the creation and immortality of man, however much at fault his mode of reasoning and arrangement of words may be with the ordinary modes of expression.

Organic Chemistry.—Dr. Hiram Hoyt, of Syracuse, N. Y., delivered a popular lecture in that place, January 19th, on organic chemistry applied to the art of living, which has been reported for the papers, and which demonstrates very conclusively the author's ability to discourse on profound subjects of science in a way to be both understood and appreciated by a mixed audience. It is a rare talent that enables a person to teach others—and yet how low that faculty is commonly estimated. Dr. Hoyt dwelt principally upon the value of the atmosphere, and the manner in which it is kept from the lungs by the vice of dress, improperly ventilated apartments, &c. People would be vastly more choice of health, if they knew

how easily it could be deranged in the estimation of physicians, by a neglect of pure atmosphere, airy rooms, simple food and clothing, varied according to the conditions of temperature in this variable climate. Dr. H.'s discourse would bear a hundred repetitions.

New York Correspondence.

Dr. Forbes, of London.—We have very recently had occasion to chronicle among the sad evidences of the degeneracy of the times, the professional apostacy of this once distinguished gentleman. We are now called upon to record his fall into a still "lower deep" of intellectual imbecility than in either of the instances to which we have heretofore adverted. Senility itself can now scarcely account for so melancholy a lapse as that which has so abruptly overtaken him; for the book which has overthrown this ancient editor and veteran in medical literature, is second only to that of Baron Munchausen in monstrous absurdities, its author, Dr. Esdail, having taken leave of his senses, by resigning his reason and consenting to become the victim of the jugglery of his patients in India, which has always been famous for practitioners in the magic arts. The baldness of the deceptions by which Dr. E. has been gulled, is as manifest in his own record of these marvels, as the honest simplicity with which he writes his own epitaph in relating them. While Dr. Forbes swallows the whole, for the reason that when a man once leaves the vantage ground of truth, whether in physics or morals, and becomes the victim of fanaticism in any one of its aspects; there is no other heresy so stupid, no other folly so preposterous, but the proclivity of his infatuation will carry him into its vortex.

It was only within the last year that Dr. Forbes's treason to the liberal profession which had sustained and elevated him to the proud position he has long occupied, aroused the indignation, while it challenged the pity of the fraternity. Until then he had been everywhere known and honored as the champion of rational science, and the able advocate of philosophy and truth. He was not only the popular editor of the British and Foreign Medical Review, which was patronized all over the scientific world, but the homage of his brethren universally awarded him at home had elevated him to be "Physician in ordinary to Her Majesty's household, and Physician extraordinary to His Royal Highness Prince Albert!" titles which, among others, his amiable self-complacency led him unceasingly to append to his name, a weakness which, like the spots in the sun, only betrayed that perfection is not to be found anywhere, and was always forgiven. But, alas! how has the mighty fallen. Then he was courted, flattered, fawned upon by "troops of friends," while millions paid him the homage due to honorable integrity, rank and talents, exemplified by an *esprit du corps* which he had till then ever illustrated by consistency in adhesion to the liberal profession whose patronage had made him what he then was. But now, "none so poor to do him reverence," so sad, so grievous has been his fall.

In January, 1846, he publicly renounced his allegiance to rational medicine, by assailing the ramparts of our venerable science with the weapons heretofore wielded only by ignorant scepticism, and forged in the service of modern quackery. He traitorously went over to these enemies of truth, and admitted, *ex cathedra*, all that they had alleged in their wildest vagaries of assault upon the claims of medicine as a science to the respect and con-

fidence of mankind. Nay, more, he united with them in decrying and disparaging his own profession, and seemed to take pleasure in confessing the uncertainty of our science, as taught and practised in the schools, and in the standard authorities of scholastic medicine. And all this as preliminary to the introduction of a new theory, under the name of "Young Physic," the rallying title of another sect, which was to own him as their leader, and make the transition easy from rational medicine, to the serene nonsense of homœopathy, modified by so much of the old leaven of allopathy as he found it inconvenient to get rid of. The whole tribe of Hahnemann were now in ecstacies, and their sinking hopes revived by this new recruit to their ranks, and they made haste to welcome the traitor, while the honest men among them despised the treason. In their eagerness to embrace, they alarmed him, and hence his letter of debenture, which however came too late for his reputation, as repentance does in some other cases after the deed is done.

Those who are familiar with the philosophy of fanaticism, at once predicted that Dr. Forbes was now prepared to go all lengths in mysticism, and looked out for further developments. Very soon he fulfilled these predictions to the letter, for having endorsed homœopathy, he next leaped over to hydropathy, and the disciples of Priessnitz were astounded to find their silly conceit fortified by the name and authority of Dr. Forbes, just at the crisis which menaced the annihilation of the water cure, by its ominous failures, and accumulating mischiefs, which they could no longer conceal. And now, in October of the same year, Dr. F. has gone over, body and soul, to mesmerism with all its lying wonders; and at the very extremity of its death-struggle, he attempts to galvanize it into life, by declaring, in the British and Foreign Medical Review, of which he strangely persists in being editor, that it can no longer be "philosophically disregarded." Surely during the year 1846 Dr. Forbes has fallen beneath "the very error of the moon," and needs the commiseration and demands the care and protection of his friends. But it is in vain to hope for his recovery, for mania, thus suddenly supervening in a man of his age and infirmities, defies the resources of allopathy, homœopathy, hydropathy, mesmerism, or young physic, so that chrono-thermalism is his *dernier resort*.

Private Surgical Instruction.—We are happy to learn that Dr. Detmold, of New York, who has distinguished himself as an operative surgeon, has, since his return from Europe, resumed his course of private instruction in surgery by lectures, in which capacity he has already earned an enviable reputation. He has a large and respectable class in attendance upon his nightly converzationes, and he holds a clinique weekly, which is highly estimated by the students. Professional gentlemen visiting the city during the winter, or sojourning even for a night, will find a visit to Dr. D. and his class an agreeable finale to a day spent in visiting the colleges; and from experience we can promise such strangers a cordial welcome.

The Letheon in London.—Letters and printed reports by the last steamer show that the Boston Letheon is well received in London. Mr. Liston, the great surgeon, has amputated twice with marked satisfaction, while the patient was under its influence. Many of the leading members of the profession have expressed themselves strongly in its favor. Our files of the London Lancet, by the last steamer, have been unaccountably detained somewhere, having but just reached us. Dr. Bigelow's first article in this Jour-

nal is copied into the Lancet of Jan. 2, with remarks by Dr. Francis Boott, of London. The Editor, in a brief article on the subject, says—"The discovery seems to have a remarkable perfection about it, even in its first promulgation. We shall watch its development in the various branches of medicine and surgery which may admit of its application, and carefully record them. We suppose we shall now hear no more of mesmerism and its absurdities as preparatives for surgical operations."

Ohio Lunatic Asylum.—Since the close of the last fiscal year 399 patients have been in the care of the institution, of whom 213 were males, and 186 females.

Of the above number, 175 were admitted during the year, viz.: 88 males and 87 females; and of this number 101 were recent cases, that is, of less duration than one year; and 74 had been in a state of mental derangement for a longer period.

Of those admitted during the year, 49 were admitted as paying patients, and 126 at the expense of the institution.

The number remaining at the close of the fiscal year is 291, which is 67 more than at the close of last year.

In the year, the whole number discharged from the institution was 108, viz.: 63 males and 45 females. Of these, 71 were discharged recovered, 3 improved, 16 stationary, and 18 by death.

Of *recent cases*, the per cent. of recoveries during the year is 95.38. In *old cases* it is 20.93; and 65.74 upon the whole number discharged within the year.

The *per cent.* of deaths, as calculated upon the average number in the asylum, is 7.37 for the year.

Of those remaining under care at the close of the year, many are improving, and some are nearly restored to the right use of their reason. The prospect in this respect appears to be clearly favorable for 37—doubtful and unfavorable for the remainder.

A number of applications for the admission of patients, from citizens of Ohio, still remain upon file in the books and papers of the office. Of these, many are doubtless to be considered as withdrawn, on account of the recovery, removal or death of the persons to whom they refer. In a few instances they have been sent out of the State, when room could not be obtained here; and in particular cases friends may have declined through want of means, or the despair of recovery.—*Annual Report of the Ohio Lunatic Asylum.*

To Correspondents.—A communication from Dr. Reese, of New York, respecting Dr. Green's book on the Air Passages; also one from Dr. Gillette, of Connecticut, and A. S. H., of Vermont, have been received.

Married.—At Salem, Wisconsin, Dr. W. F. Irwin, of Crystal Lake to Miss C. E. Cogswell.—Dr. Charles H. Brown, of Ipswich, Mass., to Miss M. C. Blake.

Report of Deaths in Boston—for the week ending Jan. 30th, 43.—Males, 24—females, 19. Stillborn, 6. Of consumption, 9—typhus fever, 2—lung fever, 1—scarlet fever, 3—canker, 1—croup, 3—inflammation of the bowels, 1—disease of the bowels, 2—old age, 1—infantile, 3—diarrhœa, 2—hoopingcough, 1—rupture of bloodvessel, 1—teething, 1—disease of the brain, 2—marasmus, 3—burns, 1—bronchitis, 1—dropsy, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 1—paralysis, 1—disease of the heart, 1—worms, 1.

Under 5 years, 21—between 5 and 20 years, 4—between 20 and 40 years, 9—between 40 and 60 years, 2—over 60 years, 7.

Delegates from Massachusetts to the National Medical Convention.—We regret to perceive by an editorial article in a late No. of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, that there is some uncertainty as to the election of delegates to represent the Massachusetts Medical Society at the next National Convention. What! the old Bay State backward in a movement, the aims of which are *reform* and *progress!* We cannot think that the profession of the State will sustain this course, if determined on by the Counsellors of the Society. From personal acquaintance with the views of a considerable portion of the profession in that State, we know that great interest, out of Boston, at least, was felt in the last Convention; and it was agitated in some counties as to the propriety of sending delegates independently of the State Society. We hope this will be done. Delegates chosen by County Societies obviously afford the fullest and fairest representation of the body of the profession. We presume the New York State Society will not again attempt to cut off representation from the County Societies of this State. It appears that at the last annual meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society, no action was taken on the subject of sending delegates; hence, the question, in so far as that Society is concerned, will devolve upon what are called the Counsellors, composed of a few members residing, for the most part, in Boston. Should they decide not to send delegates (which we cannot think will be the case), we sincerely hope the County Societies throughout the State will not fail to send each its representatives. Indeed, if the State Society be represented, we hope the local associations will also have their delegates. As a native of the Bay State, we should, for one, feel mortified at any indisposition in that State to cooperate in an enterprise in which the profession of the whole country have so deep an interest.—*Buffalo Medical Journal.*

Medical Miscellany.—In a duel fought between Dr. Root, of Memphis, Tenn., and John Dodge, the latter was killed.—The State of Massachusetts supported and relieved, in 1846, 629 insane persons and 350 idiots. The number of paupers in the State, made so by intemperance, is 7378; the whole sum paid by Massachusetts for the support of paupers last year, was $301,607 08; and the number of foreign paupers now supported by the people of this State, is 4411.—There are nine physicians in the Legislature of New York.—Dr. John Jumps goes out Surgeon of the U. S. Store-ship Supply, bound for the Gulf of Mexico.—Ten thousand persons are said to have died of cholera at Teheran, in Persia, between the 11th and 27th of October last. The deaths were 200 daily in the city.—The culture of rice is prohibited in the Duchy of Lucca, in consequence of the malaria to which it gives rise.—Dr. Darling is lecturing very acceptably at Lawrence, Mass., on his favorite subjects of anatomy and physiology.—A lady at the West, recently gave birth to four daughters—all represented to be doing well.—The London correspondent of the American Traveller of this city, states that Dr. Liston, of London, has amputated a leg with complete success, the patient being under the influence of the ethereal gas.—The Southern Medical and Surgical Journal, in speaking of a new prescription for burns and blisters, says—"During a recent visit to Aiken, we learnt from a medical friend, a domestic preparation used in that neighborhood for burns, blisters, and denuded surfaces. It is an ointment made of equal parts of white of egg, beaten up to a froth, and fresh lard. A little morphine or chloride of sodium we think might be added with advantage.